

## Carol DeSoto

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**From:** Jennifer Fenton <jfenton@ccboe.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 5, 2020 11:59 AM  
**To:** Public Record  
**Subject:** Fully Fund CCPS!

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County Commissioner,

Good morning/ afternoon, Commissioner.

My name is Jennfer Bowling Fenton and I have been an educator in Charles County for eleven years, after having spent my own years as a CCPS student. Now, I am raising my three children in Charles County and have a kindergarten student who has started her educational journey in these strange times. In my professional roles and my role as a parent, I have been lucky enough to work under and with school leaders who see the value in all those involved with education- the students, parents, teachers, community and local/state leaders. Because of their support, I have witnessed countless children overcome devastating obstacles and surprise themselves by their own abilities. This is the absolute GREATEST joy one can witness and something that is impossible to forget.

Historically, the Board of County Commissioners has supported these beautiful moments by providing solid funding for the students and employees of the Charles County Public School system, and I'm appreciative that my commitment to a quality education for every child is echoed by our elected officials. As an educator, having the resources I need to effectively do my job ensures that every student in our community can be a success.

To continue that vision together, I ask that you FULLY fund the Superintendent's budget request for the upcoming fiscal year. Now, more than ever, we've seen the impact that public education has on our community, and we need to make sure that every resource is at our disposal to maximize the education and services we provide to the students and residents of Charles County.

I know that the current times are challenging for many, but I also know that the longer-term vision of what Charles County is, and can be, is important in moving through – and beyond – the current crisis. We start to fulfill a positive vision, together, when we put resources where they are most needed. Fully fund CCPS to show that you, too, are for our students.

#EACC4OurStudents

Please, also, think about the message that would be sent if the budget is not fully funded- "Teachers, we now have a glimpse of how hard you work, as we try to raise and educate our own students from home. However, despite this realization, you're not valued and your practice as a professional is not trusted. We see you, but we don't care." This is a common sentiment so many of us already deal with from parents and students, please do not allow yourselves to fall into that same category. Doing so will cause good teachers to leave the profession and great teachers to find employment in other systems. That will further lead to people leaving our community, taking their businesses with them, and Charles County losing all of the gains that have been made in recent years. Your decisions have a much broader impact than just the finances for the next year. Please, vote for the future our Charles County!

Respectively,

Jennifer Bowling Fenton

Jennifer Fenton

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